

Claims:

1 1. A network access device comprising:
2 a network connection section for communication with a network;
3 a video section including a video signal output connectable to a video display for
4 outputting video signals to be displayed on the video display;
5 a user interface signal receiver for receiving user interface signals generated by a
6 reduced keyset user interface device; and
7 a processing unit connected to the network connection section, the video section
8 and the user Interface signal receiver, wherein the processing unit provides user interface
9 functions by outputting video signals for displaying information to the user and processing
10 user interface signals received by the user interface signal receiver and generated by the
11 user in response to the output video signals, the user interface functions enabling the user
12 to control and navigate the operation of the network access device solely through the
13 reduced keyset user interface device.

1 2. The network access device of claim 1, further including a housing that contains the
2 network connection section, the video section, the user interface signal receiver, and the
3 processing unit.

1 3. The network access device of claim 2, further including at least one device selected
2 from the group consisting of an audio output device, an audio signal output, an audio input
3 device, an audio signal input, a video input device, a video signal input, and visual
4 indicators, the at least one device being carried by the housing and being connected to and
5 controlled by the processing unit.

1 4. The network access device of claim 1, wherein the processing unit provides user
2 interface functions by processing a set of user interface signals consisting of a set of
3 numeric keystroke signals and a small number of functional keystroke signals.

1 5. The network access device of claim 1, wherein the user interface signal receiver is a
2 wireless signal receiver.

1 6. The network access device of claim 1, further comprising a reduced
2 keyset user interface device consisting of a set of numeric keys and a small number of
3 functional keys, the reduced keyset user interface device being coupled to the user
4 interface signal receiver.

1 7. A method for providing a user interface between an information processing system
2 and a user using a display screen for displaying information to the user and a reduced
3 keyset user interface device for transmitting keystroke signals to the information processing
4 system, the method comprising the steps of:

5 displaying information to the user on the display screen, the displayed information
6 including user interface elements;

7 dividing the display screen into a plurality of display areas each containing displayed
8 information;

9 designating one of the plurality of display areas as an input focus area in response
10 to first keystroke signals received from the reduced keyset user interface device; and

11 interpreting keystroke signals received from the reduced keyset user interface
12 device based on displayed user interface elements in the input focus area only.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of screen display areas is
2 capable of being designated as an input focus area, and wherein the designating step
3 sequentially designates input focus areas according to a predetermined order in response
4 to the first keystroke signals.

1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the dividing step includes dividing the display screen
2 into one or more primary display areas for displaying dynamic text or graphics, and one or
3 more button bars each containing one or more buttons, each button representing an
4 operation of the information processing system.

1 10. A method for providing a user interface between an information processing system
2 and a user using a display screen for displaying information to the user and a reduced
3 keyset user interface device for transmitting keystroke signals including numeral keystroke
4 signals to the information processing system, the method comprising the steps of:

5 displaying information to the user on the display screen, the displayed information
6 including user interface elements;

7 displaying an association of each of at least some of the user interface elements
8 with a character; and

9 interpreting character keystroke signals received from the reduced

10 keyset user interface device according to the displayed association of user interface
11 elements with characters.

11 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the information displayed on the display screen
includes information accessed through the Internet, and at least some of the user interface
elements associated with characters are links contained in a web page.

12 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the association of characters and user interface
elements is determined by information contained in the web page.

13 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the association of characters and user interface
elements is determined by analyzing the content of the web page and display configuration
3 of the display screen.

14 14. A method for providing a user interface between an information processing system
and a user using a display screen for displaying information to the user and a reduced
keyset user interface device for transmitting keystroke signals to the information processing
system, the information processing system having a plurality of modes selectable by the
user, each mode performing predetermined functions, the method comprising the steps of:

displaying information to the user on the display screen, the displayed information

including user interface elements, depending on the selected mode of the information

8 processing system, displaying a characteristic screen display associated with the selected
9 mode, the characteristic screen display including layout of the display screen, selection of
10 operations, and associated set of commands; and
11 displaying mode selection user interface elements for enabling the user to select one
12 of the modes of the system using the reduced keyset user interface device, the mode
13 selection user interface elements being displayed regardless of the selected mode of the
14 information processing system.